Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Real GDP by Expenditure

In 2014, Alberta's real GDP by expenditure grew by 4.8%, the strongest growth rate among the provinces and the fifth consecutive year of robust growth. Nationally, real GDP grew by 2.5% in 2014, up from 2.2% in 2013.

Population

Alberta's population was 4,216,875, as of October 1, 2015. This was an increase of 1.7% from the year prior. Nationally, population grew 0.9% from a year ago.

Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 11,232 in the third quarter of 2015. There was a quarter-over-quarter increase of 9,998 persons in net international migrants. However, net interprovincial migrants fell to 1,234, the lowest level since 2009-2010.

Employment[1]

Alberta lost an additional 3,900 jobs in December, after losing 25,700 jobs in the preceding two months. Job losses were concentrated in the private sector, although public sector employment also shrank. Self-employment rose by 16,700 jobs.

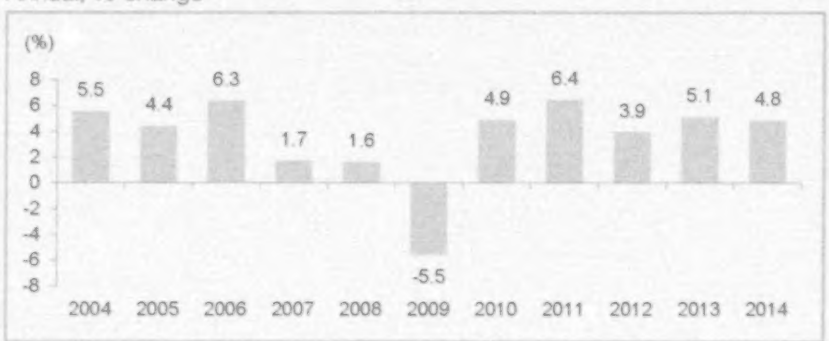
Unemployment Rate[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate held steady at 7.0% in December, maintaining its highest level since April 2010.

Rigs Drilling

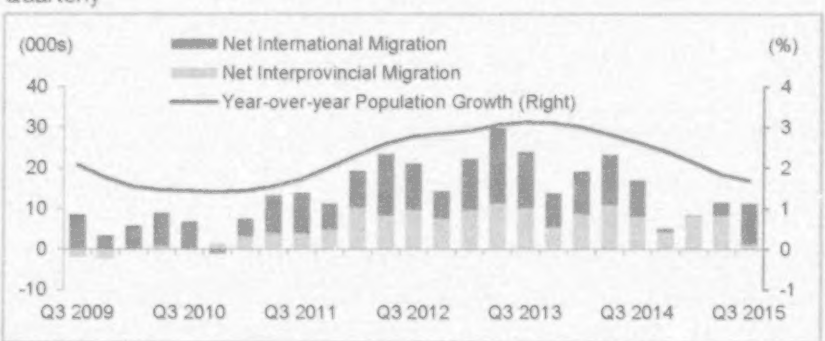
In December there was an average of 96 active rigs in Alberta, a 62% decrease from December 2014. Alberta's rigs count averaged 120 active rigs per month during 2015.

Real GDP by Expenditure
Annual, % change



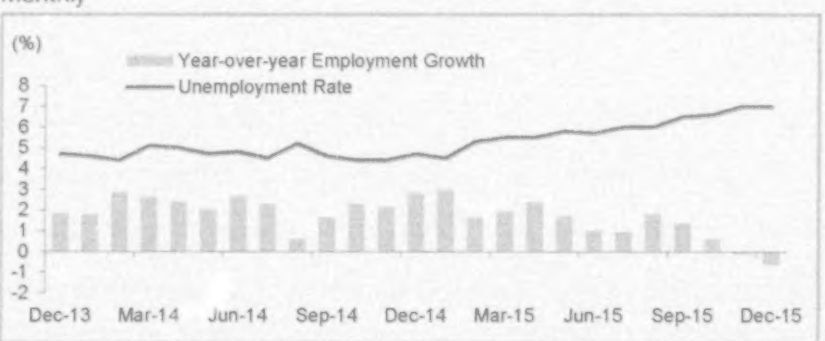
Source: Statistics Canada

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

Alberta Government

January 15, 2016
Treasury Board and Finance
Economics and Revenue Forecasting

Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.0% y/y in November. Inflation continues to be held in check by lower energy prices (-8.1% y/y). Excluding energy, CPI inflation was up 2.7% y/y.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta ticked up for a second straight month in October, rising 0.6% m/m to $1,145. Nationally, AWE rose by 0.5% to $959 and remains up 1.9% y/y.

Retail Sales[1]

Retail sales were $6.3 billion in October, down 5.8% y/y. The slowdown in retail trade has broadened, with eight out of eleven retail categories reporting declining sales.

NEW: Housing Starts[1]

Alberta housing starts fell to 25,993 (annualized) in December, down 26% y/y to its lowest level since January 2012. Housing starts declined by over 10% y/y in both Edmonton and Calgary.

NEW: New Housing Price Index

Alberta's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) was down 0.3% y/y in November, for a third month. Calgary's NHPI fell another 0.8% y/y, while Edmonton's NHPI was up 0.1% y/y.

Building Permits[1]

The total value of building permits issued in Alberta fell to $953 million in November, down 27% year-over-year. Amidst a slow 2015, Permit values were down 5.9% year-to-date.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact

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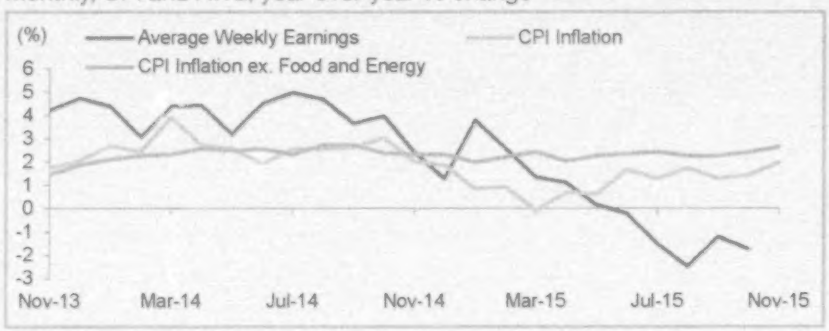
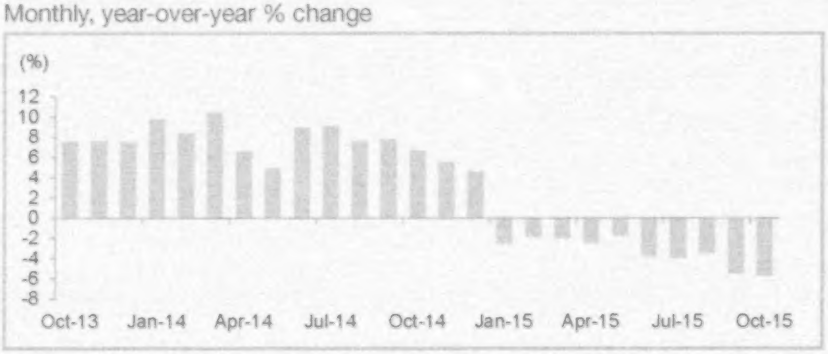
Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, CPI and AWE, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

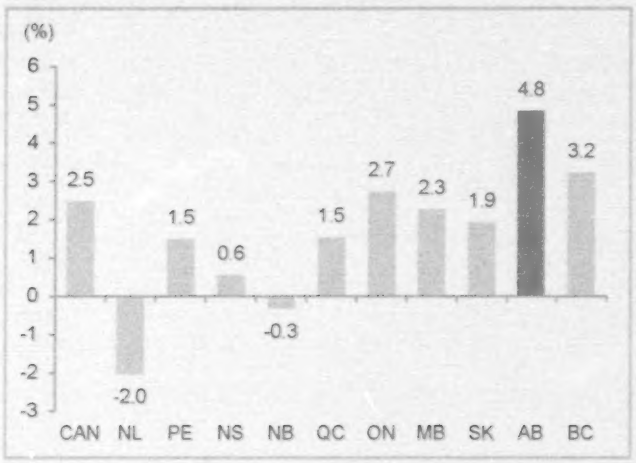
Housing Market
Monthly

Source: Statistics Canada

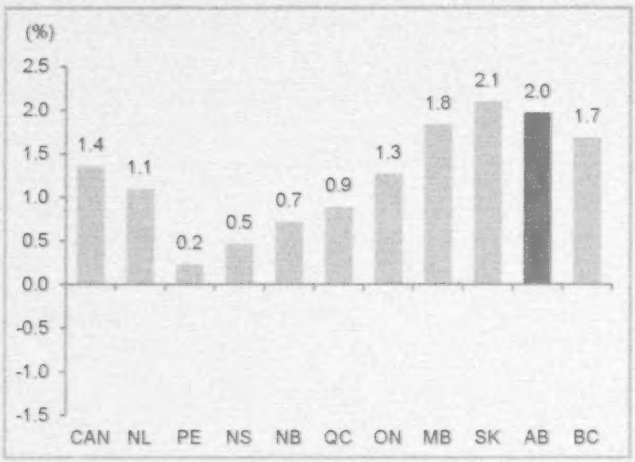
	Canadian Dollar (USc/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest (January 14, 2016)	69.57	31.20	2.14	2.40 (October)
Fiscal year-to-date	77.11	48.11	2.56	2.41

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

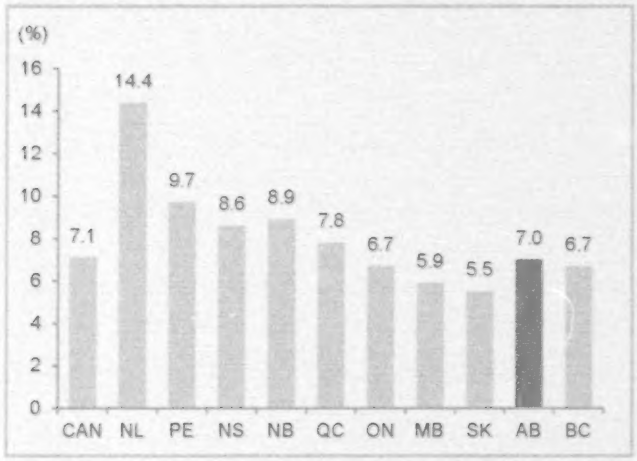
Real GDP by Expenditure
(2014, year-over-year growth)



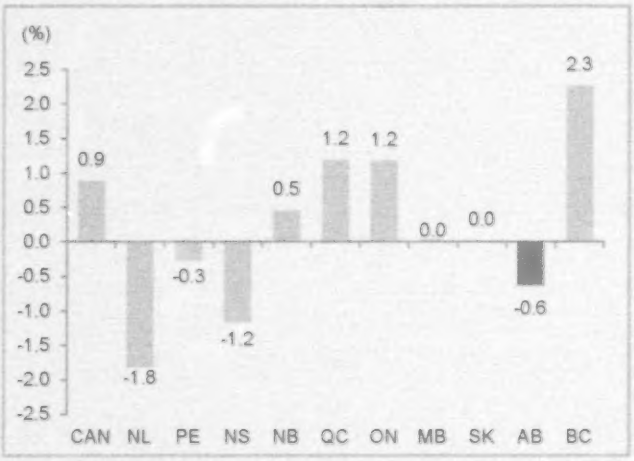
CPI Inflation
(November 2015, year-over-year growth)



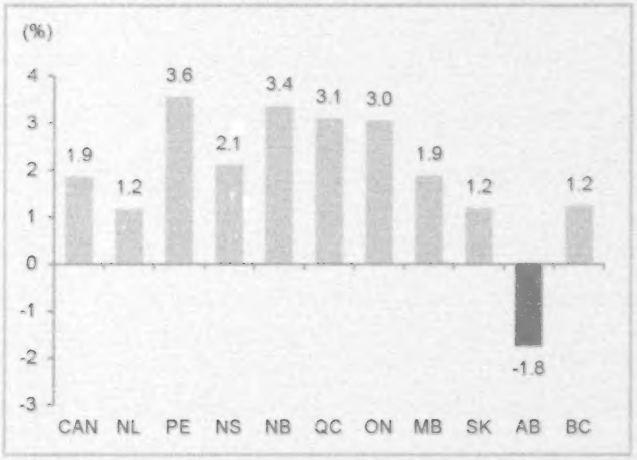
Unemployment Rate
(December 2015)



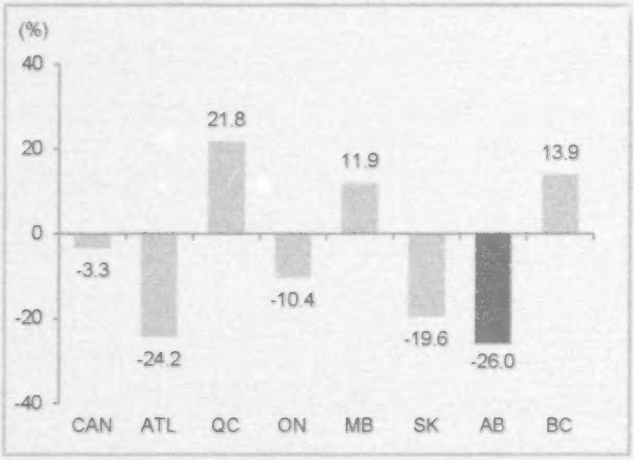
Employment
(December 2015, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(October 2015, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(December 2015, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

Population[1]	2013	2014	2015YTD	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
Population (thousands)	4,007	4,121	4,217	4,196			4,217		
y/y % change	3.05	2.82	1.68	1.83			1.68		
Net Interprovincial Migration	33,538	35,382	28,921	8,264			1,234		
Net International Migration	49,116	44,922	13,058	4,208			9,998		
Labour Market [2]									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,226	2,276	2,301	2,298	2,302	2,315	2,304	2,290	2,286
m/m change (thousands)				-4.3	4.7	12.3	-10.8	-14.9	-3.9
y/y % change	2.5	2.2	1.2	0.9	1.8	1.4	0.6	-0.1	-0.6
Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	4.6	4.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.6	7.0	7.0
Participation Rate (%, SA)	73.1	72.7	73.0	72.8	72.8	73.5	73.1	72.9	72.7
Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA)	1,108.23	1,149.35	1,149.11	1,137.31	1,129.59	1,138.75	1,145.29		
y/y % change	3.5	3.7	0.2	-1.5	-2.5	1.2	-1.8		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales ($ million, SA)	73,109	78,582	63,398	6,375	6,367	6,304	6,255		
y/y % change	6.9	7.5	-3.3	-3.9	-3.5	-5.5	-5.8		
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	263	277	209	23	22	23	20		
y/y % change	6.2	5.3	11.4	-15.1	-13.6	-13.2	-15.7		
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.4	2.6	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.4	2.0	
Excluding Food & Energy	1.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.6	
NEW: Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	36.6	40.6	37.5	34.7	34.6	36.9	31.7	42.9	26.0
y/y % change	7.8	12.7	-7.4	-10.0	-21.6	-21.5	-21.6	10.8	-26.0
NEW: New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	2.8	3.4	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2	-0.9	
NEW: Resale Home Sales	66,080	71,273	51,717	5,073	4,693	4,654	4,631	4,602	4,419
y/y % change	0.5	8.6	-22.6	-14.1	-20.5	-23.6	-26.2	-24.5	-16.4
NEW: Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.64	0.65	0.52	0.58	0.54	0.51	0.51	0.46	0.41
NEW: MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands)	361	401	391	395	392	386	389	388	398
y/y % change	4.9	5.2	-2.3	-0.1	-2.3	-4.4	-3.9	-5.3	-0.3
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	4,689	3,859	3,543	353	333	381	380		
y/y % change	18.6	-17.7	-7.2	19.3	15.2	21.7	12.1		
Business Sector									
Goods Exports (customs based, $ million)	103,007	121,484	84,780	8,436	8,199	8,003	6,767	6,590	
y/y % change	8.4	17.9	-23.7	-18.4	-15.3	-25.3	-36.9	-27.1	
Energy Products ($ million)	75,700	91,299	57,481	5,991	5,761	5,515	4,317	4,145	
y/y% change	11.6	20.6	-31.0	-23.6	-19.8	-32.4	-46.3	-38.4	
Agricultural Products ($ million)	6,184	6,462	5,800	521	494	465	540	555	
y/y % change	9.0	4.5	3.0	-4.8	-15.5	-4.7	0.6	6.8	
Rigs Drilling	295	282	120	117	126	112	115	114	96
y/y% change	-5.9	-7.4	-52.6	-49.1	-50.4	-59.7	-56.6	-57.1	-62.1
Manufacturing Shipments ($ million)	73,430	78,941	57,597	5,797	5,681	5,610	5,505		
y/y% change	3.0	7.5	-13.2	-14.6	-14.6	-16.3	-16.1		
Wholesale Trade ($ million)	78,605	84,614	67,091	6,630	6,530	6,437	6,294		
y/y% change	2.3	7.6	-4.6	-7.3	-8.6	-10.1	-12.1		
Building Permits ($ million, SA)	17,262	18,256	15,546	1,514	1,256	1,413	2,165	953	
y/y% change	17.7	5.8	-5.9	-11.5	-22.5	-2.6	-37.9	-27.5	
Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	9,859	10,511	9,198	811	758	891	1,314	570	
y/y % change	19.0	9.9	-7.0	-11.2	-19.6	-11.8	36.3	-33.0	
Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	7,403	7,426	6,347	703	499	613	851	383	
y/y % change	16.1	0.3	-4.2	11.9	-26.5	12.8	40.6	-17.2	
Non Res. Building Cons. Price Index[2] (y/y % change)	1.2	1.6	-0.5			-1.4			
Business Bankruptcies	137	105	79	5	4	9	7		
y/y % change	-40.4	-23.4	-8.1	-28.6	-63.6	80.0	50.0		

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30)

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate

Sources: All data are from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canada Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (office of the superintendent of Bankruptcy

All historical data are subject to revision